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# THE ILLINOIS LITERACY EFFORT

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**ILLINOIS  
LITERACY  
COUNCIL**

**ILLINOIS DOCUMENTS**  
**JIM EDGAR**  
Chairman

**INITIATIVE  
LEADERSHIP  
COOPERATION**



**Secretary of State's Literacy Office  
Illinois State Library  
431 South Fourth Street  
Springfield, Illinois 62701  
(217) 785-6921**

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS-URBANA



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# INITIATIVE

Initiative, leadership and cooperation have placed Illinois in the forefront of the national assault on adult illiteracy.

Committed to the support of a strong and lasting network of adult literacy services in Illinois, Secretary of State and State Librarian Jim Edgar has established a state-funded Literacy Grant Program and a Literacy Office in the Illinois State Library.

## State Literacy Grant Program

The Secretary of State's Literacy Grant Program is the first of its kind in any state. This program provides state funds to **all types** of public and private adult literacy programs which demonstrate:

- A commitment to serving adults over the age of 16 who read below the 6th grade level.
- The use of trained volunteers as tutors and program advocates.
- Coordination and cooperation at the local level with related public agency programs.

## Literacy Office

The Secretary of State's Literacy Office administers the state grant program and coordinates the activities of the Illinois literacy effort. The Literacy Office sponsors statewide conferences, publishes a monthly newsletter, serves as a clearinghouse for information, and provides technical assistance to the network of more than 250 adult literacy programs.

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# LEADERSHIP

## **Illinois Literacy Council**

Chaired by Secretary Edgar, the Illinois Literacy Council is composed of 36 representatives from state agencies, the library and education communities, private foundations, the business sector and community-based organizations.

Five council subcommittees focus on the major program areas of:

- Prevention
- Public and Private Resources
- Public Information
- Training and Methodologies
- Volunteer/Student Recruitment

## **Business & Labor Committee**

Established in August 1987, the Business and Labor Literacy Advisory Committee assists the Illinois Literacy Council in promoting the development of workplace literacy programs and encouraging management and labor to support local literacy efforts. The committee is appointed by Secretary Edgar and includes 18 representatives from large corporations and local businesses, and 18 representatives from state and local unions.

## **Local Literacy Coalitions**

Community leadership through local coalitions is crucial to the success of the Illinois literacy effort. Adult literacy program directors across the state have spearheaded the creation of more than 150 community coalitions. Membership includes both public and private sector interests which have joined forces for effective advocacy and fund-raising.

# COOPERATION

Illinois has developed a diversified network of literacy programs which includes libraries, community colleges, public schools, Laubach Literacy Action councils, Literacy Volunteers of America affiliates, correctional institutions, community-based organizations and alternative schools.

Literacy providers are found in all regions of the state - urban, suburban, and rural. All are committed to cooperation and coordination among themselves and with the various agencies in their communities which provide related services.

At the state level, the Secretary of State's Literacy Office works in close cooperation with:

- Illinois State Board of Education  
Adult Education Section  
Pre-Kindergarten Program  
Truant/Alternative Program
- Illinois Community College Board
- Illinois Department of Corrections  
School District #428
- Illinois Department of Commerce and  
Community Affairs  
JTPA Program Division
- Illinois Department of Public Aid  
Project Chance Program
- Governor's Office of Voluntary Action



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# MATERIALS

The following materials are available through the Secretary of State's Literacy Office:

**Bibliography of Adult New Reader Collection, 1987.** Compiled by Shawnee Library System. Annotated. 2500 titles by grade level.

## **BROCHURES –**

**Illinois Literacy Effort** (overview).  
**Partners in Literacy** (for businesses).

## **Illinois Libraries**

**Volume 67, no.7. Illinois Literacy Effort, September 1985.**

**Volume 69, no.6. Illinois Literacy Effort Update, June 1987.**

**"Passing the Word" newsletter, March 1985 – Present** (monthly).

## **Posters, Print Ads and Recruitment**

**Cards.** Targeting volunteers, students and potential drop-out population. Recruitment cards available in Spanish and English.

**Profiles of Adult Learners.** Featuring Illinois achievers.

**Resource Directory of Illinois Literacy Programs, June 1987. Update Fall 1988.**

**Secretary of State Literacy Grant Program Information.** Rules and Regulations, Application Forms, Enabling Legislation.

**Secretary of State Literacy Grants Booklet.** Listing of Fiscal Year 1989 grants by region.

**"Toward a More Literate Workforce: The Emergence of Workplace Literacy Programs in Illinois."** Report on eight Illinois onsite workplace basic skills programs. August 1987; updated April 1988.

**Workforce Literacy Video.** Produced by Secretary of State's Literacy office to promote business/labor/education partnerships.

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*Joan Y. Seamon, Coordinator, Illinois Literacy Effort*

## **ILLINOIS LITERACY HOTLINE**

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